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Chrono

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03 JUL 1978

DCI/IC-78-0033

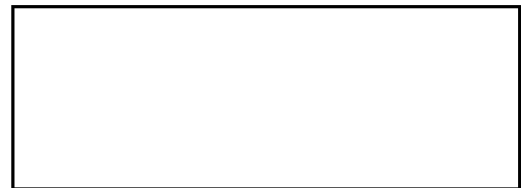
MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]
Production Assessment and Improvement Division, OPEI

FROM: [REDACTED]
Deputy to the DCI for Resource Management

SUBJECT: Your Memorandum on the Future of CONTEXT/DISCON
Dated 8 May

1. I am not ready at this time to forward your memorandum to the DCI. It is not clear to me whether we can afford to continue a system such as this given the current competition that exists Community-wide for increasingly scarce resources. Dick Lehman has sent me a copy of the final draft his working group produced. I think it would be wise to wait and see how it is received and if a Senior Warning Officer is appointed, whether he is willing to take on Community conferencing.

2. Several members of my staff provided comments to you on your original memorandum. I am surprised that you did not either incorporate their suggestions or rebutt them. One further thought--when we reconsider the subject later, I would like you to add as Option C, "Termination of the Program." I think we would be remiss if we did not at least consider this possibility.



Distribution:
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(6/30/78)

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8 May 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : [redacted] (USN), OPEI
[redacted] D/DCI/RM
Ambassador Carlucci, DDCI

FROM : [redacted] Special Assistant for
Warning and Crisis Operations

SUBJECT : Future of CONTEXT/DISCON

REFERENCE : Report on the Intelligence Community, by the DCI
dated January 1978

1. Action Requested: Choice of Alternatives listed under
"Recommendation" of this memorandum.

2. Background: In the 1978 Report on the Intelligence Community
by the DCI to the President and Congress (reference above) we have committed
ourselves to the CONTEXT system to allow remote conferencing among senior
analysts and officials across the Intelligence Community (pps. 28, 59).
The system is now undergoing final engineering tests and is being readied
for operational testing and training. With the reorganization of the IC
Staff, however, the management and operation of the system must be
transferred elsewhere. The system has been designed primarily to
accommodate the needs of community analysts particularly during tension,
warning and crisis situations. NSA has made the greatest contributions
to the development of the system while the Information Handling Committee
has furnished (up until 1 July 1978) the project officer [redacted]

3. An addition to CONTEXT is the display conferencing (DISCON)
system which will allow maps and other graphic material to be displayed
and discussed in the conference. DISCON is due for a feasibility
demonstration within the next two months. Funding for both CONTEXT
and DISCON would be transferred to the new manager. Current and estimated
funding is:

	<u>FY-78</u>	<u>FY-79</u>	<u>FY-80 (Estimate)</u>
CONTEXT	[redacted]		
DISCON			

*includes a central processor and extension of the system to
executive levels including the EOB.

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4. The management and community coordination functions would require a minimum of two full time personnel, one mid-level manager (GS14/15) and one administrative assistant (GS9/10). Community participation has largely been arranged on a part-time basis.

5. Recommendation:

Option A: Transfer the management and operation of CONTEXT to NFAC with the continued support of NSA for engineering test, inasmuch as the operational system is to be used primarily by analysts.

Option B: Transfer the management and operation of CONTEXT to NSA as executive agent until an Intelligence Community I&W entity is formed to take over the function.

Option C: Terminate the program.



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13 June 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR:
D/DCI/RM

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FROM :

SUBJECT : Memorandum on the Future of CONTEXT/DISCON

Following your instructions after the CONTEXT demonstration of last Tuesday I am resubmitting my memorandum of 8 May 1978 on the above subject. I attended Mr. Lehman's meeting today on I&W. This will be the last meeting on this subject. He has included the recommendation that community conferencing be included in the duties of the Senior Assistant for Warning. Until this mechanism has been established the two options I am recommending remain viable.

Attachment



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